

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 AID-05 ACDA-05 DHA-02 OPR-02 /090 W

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R 141434Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7731

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0497

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET

SUBJECT: DISRUPTIONS AND DISSIDENCE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE
(FURTHER ADDENDA)

REFS: (A) ADDIS ABABA 0167 (DTG 061208Z JAN 76), (B) ADDIS ABABA
0418 (DTG 130835Z JAN 76)

1. AMERICAN CONSTRUCTION CREW SUPERVISOR WORKING FOR ETHIO-
PIAN HIGHWAY AUTHORITY (EHA) REPORTS THAT 6 ARMY TRUCKS WERE
AMBUSHED BY INSURGENTS NEAR EL KERE IN BALE PROVINCE 2 1/2
WEEKS AGO. ARMY CONVOY WAS PRECEEDING CONSTRUCTION CREW
TRUCKS, AND TOOK BRUNT OF ATTACK, SAVING EHA WORKERS, IN SOURCE'S
OPIONS, FROM ANNIHILATION. REPORTEDLY ALL 6 TRUCKS WERE
DESTROYED AND MOST OF SOLDIERS WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED.
ANOTHER INCIDENT SIMILAR TO THIS ONE HAD OCCURRED PREVIOUSLY
IN SAME AREA IN WHICH ARMY TRUCKS PRECEEDING EHA CONSTRUC-
TION CREWS WERE ATTACKED WITH UNKNOWN OUTCOME. SOURCE
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ALSO CONFIRMED MINE INCIDENT NEAR EL KERE AND INCIDENT

NEAR GODE, BOTH REPORTED IN REF B. AS RESULT OF THESE INCIDENTS AND ATTACK ON VOLAG CARAVAN LEAVING EL KERE, EHA CREWS HAVE CEASED WORK ON IMI/EL KERE ROAD AND WITHDRAWN FROM THAT AREA. THEY CONTINUE WORK ON THE GHINIR/IMI ROAD WITH MILITARY ESCORT. MAJOR DAWIT OF THE RRC CONFIRMS THAT ROAD TRAVEL IS PROHIBITED IN THE IMI/EL KERE AREA.

2. SAME SOURCE AS PARA 1 REPORTS THAT A CONSTRUCTION CREW HAD TO EVACUATE GEWANI (NORTH OF AWAS STATION) LAST WEEK BECAUSE OF ATTACK BY (PRESUMABLY) AFAR INSURGENTS.

3. EMBASSY HAS IT SECOND HAND FROM NORWEIGIAN MISSIONARIES STATIONED IN DOLO ON SOUTHERN BALE/SOMALI BORDER THAT SOMALI TRUCKS HAVE BEEN SEEN UNLOADING ARMS AND AMMUNITION ACROSS THE RIVER(BORDER). ARMS AND AMMUNITION WERE SUBSEQUENTLY LOADED ON CAMELS, PRESUMABLY FOR INFILTRATION INTO ETHIOPIA.

4. MISSIONARY AVIATION FELLOWSHIP PILOT WAS TOLD BY EPMG AUTHORITIES NOT TO FLY INTO AREA 50 MILES SOUTH OF DODOLA IN BALE PROVINCE BECAUSE "SHIFTAS" WERE IN CONTROL OF THAT AREA AND WOULD CAPTURE AND HOLD PLANES AND PERSONNEL FOR RANSOM.

5. ARMY MAJOR WORKING IN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COOPERATION (ZEMATCHA) HEADQUARTERS TOLD FSL THAT 29 ZEMATCHA STUDENTS WERE KILLED BY PEASANTS IN GINDEBERET, SHOA, LAST WEEK. ACTION RESULTED FROM PEASANTS' OPPOSITION TO ZEMATCHA MARXIST PROSELYTIZING AND THEIR INTERFERENCE IN LOCAL AFFAIRS. SAME SOURCE REPORTS THAT "HEAVY FIGHTING" HAS BROKEN OUT IN AREAS IN BALE AND BEGEMDIR PROVINCES BETWEEN INSURGENTS AND ETHIOPIAN REGULARS.

5. PROTECT ALL SOURCES.
HUMMEL

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